

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2065

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0391

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJECT: SUTTNER TERRORISM TRIAL BEGINS

REF: DURBAN 232 JUNE 20, 1975

1. TRIAL OF UNIVERSITY OF NATAL LAW LECTURER RAYMOND SUTTNER, ARRESTED JUNE 19 UNDER TERRORISM ACT (REFTEL), BEGAN NOVEMBER 3 WITH SUTTNER PLEADING GUILTY TO TWO COUNTS OF CONTRAVENING SUPPRESSION OF COMMUNISM ACT. UNDER FIRST COUNT HE IS CHARGED WITH TAKING PART IN THE ACTIVITIES OF AN UNLAWFUL ORGANIZATION (AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, ANC) AND ON SECOND WITH UNDERGOING TRAINING OR INCITING OTHERS TO TRAIN OR OBTAINING INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE USED TO FURTHER THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ANY OF THE OBJECTS OF COMMUNISM OR ANY UNLAWFUL ORGANIZATION.

2. STATE BEGAN ITS CASE WITH THREE HOUR EXAMINATION OF LAWRENCE KUHN A STUDENT OF SUTTNER'S WHO WAS ARRESTED SEVERAL DAYS AFTER SUTTNER. KUHN DETAILED HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH SUTTNER SAYING HE FOUND SUTTNER "INTELLECTUALLY DYNAMIC" AND WAS FLATTERED AT SUTTNER'S INTEREST IN HIM. KUHN ADMITTED ASSISTING SUTTNER DISTRIBUTE AFRICAN NATIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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CONGRESS PAMPHLETS. JENNIFER ROXBURGH, UNIVERSITY OF

NATAL ZULU LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR ARRESTED AT SAME TIME A
KUHNY ALSO ADMITTED ASSISTING SUTTNER DISTRIBUTE PAMPHLETS
AS WELL AS TRANSLATE SOME OF THEM INTO ZULU. ROXBURGH
EXPLAINED HER INVOLVEMENT BY NOTING HER FEELINGS ABOUT THE
SUFFERING OF BLACKS AND HER CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH SUTTNER.

3. AS IF TO UNDERLINE THE ALLEGED FLAGITIOUS NATURE OF
SUTTNER'S CRIMES STATE ALSO CALLED UNIDENTIFIED FORMER
MEMBER OF ANC WHO DESCRIBED HIS OWN LENGTHY TRAINING, IN
SOVIET UNION AND
EAST BERLIN, IN TECHNIQUES OF SABOTAGE.
AFTER RETURNING TO SOUTH AFRICA IN 1970 HE CLAIMED HE
LOST HIS "LOVE FOR POLITICS" AND TURNED HIMSELF INTO
DURBAN POLICE IN 1971. STATE, HOWEVER, WAS UNABLE TO
SHOW SUTTNER UNDERWENT ANY TRAINING OF THE TYPE THIS WITNESS
HAD UNDERGONE. TRIAL IS CONTINUING.
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